



# DRUMS OF LOUISIANA

## *News From Louisiana Indian Country*

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From right to left: Ellen Hebert, District Secretary and Member of Terrebonne Parish Tree Board; Brenda Dardar-Robichaux, Principal Chief, United Houma Nation Tribe; Sybil Guidry, Chairperson Terrebonne Parish Tree Board.

### UNITED HOUMA NATION RECEIVES TREES FROM THE LAFOURCHE TERREBONE SWCD & THE NRCS THIBODAUX FIELD OFFICE



Mr. Gary Fine, ACES Nursery Manager donated over 200 hardwood trees to the Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD and NRCS Thibodaux Field Office. SWCD and NRCS then donated the trees to the local Terrebonne Parish Tree Board. Mrs. Sybil Guidry accepted the trees on behalf of Terrebonne Parish Tree Board. Mrs. Hebert, a member of the Terrebonne Parish Tree Board contacted Mrs. Robichaux, Principal Chief, and asked if the United Houma Nation Tribe would be interested in receiving hardwood trees to distribute to their local Tribe Members. Mrs. Robichaux was very grateful and accepted over 80 hardwood trees on behalf of the United Houma Nation Tribe, and stated that these trees will be distributed at their next Tribal Council Meeting. The local tribal residents lost their trees from the result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and will be grateful to receive the gift of trees.



"Each man is good in the sight of the Great Spirit".  
Chief Sitting Bull



### AMERICA INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE EMPHASIS PROGRAM MANAGER NOTES

Louisiana coastal Indian communities have been devastated by two hurricanes that hit within two weeks of each other. The damage inflicted by the storms are too hard to imagine considering the mass destruction that took place following Katrina and Rita three years ago. Included in this issue is an article and photos on the recent storms.



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## **MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE SYSTEM ON CHITIMACHA TRIBAL LANDS**

The Chitimacha Tribe inquired if St. Mary Parish Drainage District #1 was responsible or had a part in the maintenance of the drainage system on tribal land. After a review by the St. Mary Parish Drainage District #1 supervisor the drainage system on the Tribal Lands of the Chitimacha Tribe are not maintained by the parish, but is the responsibility of the tribe (assistance provided by parish upon request). The Charles Stemmans, District Conservationist for NRCS in St. Mary Parish then contacted the tribal representative about their drainage problems. This contact has resulted in a request to assist the tribe in possible EWP activities and help to assist in assessing the drainage system on tribal lands.



## **MANY FIELD OFFICE INVITED TO CHOCTAW APACHE INSTALLATION**

The Many FO has been personally invited by John Procell, the new Chief of the Choctaw Apache Tribe of Ebarb to the installation of the chief and council that will take place on September 21, 2008 in Ebarb. This was a very nice honor for my office and staff. An article and photos will be in the next issue of our newsletter.

## **NRCS ALEXANDRIA FO CONTACT CLIFTON CHOCTAWS**

In July the Alexandria FO sent out a program flyer package to the Clifton Choctaws with a cover letter asking them to participate and to voice their ideas on local resource issues for Rapides Parish and for their lands.

## **BECOMING A FIREWISE COMMUNITY**



Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council in partnership with the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry recently hosted community meetings on "Becoming a Firewise Community." A meeting at the Chitimacha Volunteer Fire Department was held on July 29.

As a result of hosting town hall meetings, each fire department received a check for \$1,000 from the RC&D Council as part of a pass-through grant from the Department of Ag and Forestry.

Additionally, large Smokey the Bear signs in each community provide up-to-date fire danger information, so landowners can understand the best times for burning in their areas.







## Hurricane Gustav & Ike Hammers Coastal Indian Communities

It has been three years since Hurricane Katrina and Rita devastated the coastal Indian communities of Louisiana. Now Hurricanes Gustav and Ike have made their presence felt with a direct hit on the United Houma Nation in LaFourche and Terrebone Parish and the Chitimacha Tribe in St. Mary Parish.

The non-federally recognized United Houma Nation tribal communities in Terrebone Parish received the full force of Gustav and Hurricane Ike totally inundated their communities with flood waters. Some of the Houmas said that the flooding from Ike was worst than Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

Houma Principal Chief Brenda DarDar Robichaux on her blog on the United Houma Nation Web pages said that "The most extensive damage was to the community at Dulac". The Houma tribal communities sustained serious damage to their houses with roofs being ripped off, flooding, their fishing boats being damaged or destroyed, loss of trees and wetlands being damaged, and loss of services such as electricity, phone, etc.

The Federal recognized Chitimacha Tribe received heavy wind damage with a lot of trees down and roofs damaged. The BIA provided federal relief with bottled water and MREs.

The Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD and NRCS Thibodaux Field Office have offered their assistance to the United Houma Nation.



**Hurricane Damage**



**Flooding at the Dulac Center**



**Fish Death Cause by Gustav**

**Hurricane Disaster  
Credit Photos to:**

**Brenda DarDar Robichaux,  
United Houma Indians**

<http://www.unitedhoumanation.org/>



## Many Field Office Adai Indian Nation Pow-Wow Display



The USDA-NRCS Many Field Office had a display featured at the 17th annual Choctaw Apache Pow-Wow held in Zwolle in Sabine Parish on May 3 & 4, 2008. The display showed the services that NRCS has to offer along with history and photos of the Choctaw Apache Tribe, the uses of buffalo, and the new American Indian Heritage Month for 2007...American Indian Heritage Month Poster is held yearly during November.

John Rogers, District Conservationist for the NRCS Many Field Office said, "The response to the display was positive and that I received numerous questions about the display and NRCS".



## Fall Tribal Pow - Wows Schedule

### Grand Bois Inter-Tribal

### Pow-Wow



Arts, crafts, food, inter-tribal & gourd dancing. Bring lawn chairs. Admission \$3 per person, students \$2, senior citizens free. September 19 - 20, 2008 - Begins Friday at 6 pm, begins Saturday & Sunday at 10:30 am. Location: Grand Bois Park Bourg LaRose Hwy (Hwy 24) Bourg, LA 70434. This event is sponsored by the Terrebonne Indian Association, Inc. Contact: Ernest (985)594-7410, email: [spconr@lsu.edu](mailto:spconr@lsu.edu)

### 18th Annual Adai Indian Nation Pow-Wow

The Adai Indian Community outside of Robeline on Hwy. 485 will host their annual Pow Wow on the grounds of the Adai Indian Cultural Center between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on October 18th. Festivities include arts and crafts, food, traditional Indian dances and more! Free admission. Bring a lawn chair. For more information please call (318) 472-1007.

### 9th Annual Four Winds Tribe POW-WOW

October 25 & 26, 2008 at the Beauregard Parish Fairgrounds for more Information, please contact Jackie Womack at (337) 462-3665, or Email [talkingleaves2003@yahoo.com](mailto:talkingleaves2003@yahoo.com), or visit our website [www.fourwindstribelcc.com](http://www.fourwindstribelcc.com)

### 42nd Annual Louisiana Indian Heritage Association Fall POW-WOW

The Louisiana Indian Heritage Association will have its 42nd Annual Fall Pow-Wow at its new location, the Lamar Dixon Arena in Gonzales, LA, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 29-30, 2008

Intertribal and gourd-dancing, Native American crafts, food and storytelling, demonstrations and more will be inside the sheltered arena. For more information, please contact Rose at (504) 616-4394, visit their website at

[www.liha-news.com](http://www.liha-news.com)

